sources and purely as a Staff welfare measure.

(b) No, Sir. However, assistance of other agencies in the field of education is being sought from time to time to meet the requirements of Railway employees.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f). Upgradation of the existing Railway schools upto the level of High Schools/Higher Secondary School is considered on merits, subject to availability of funds of meet the recurring and non-recurring expenditure.

[*English*]

Universal Elementary Education

*582. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI HARPAL PANWAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the revised target for attaining the goal of 'universal elementary education' in the country;

(b) the progress made during the last three years in this regard and how does it compare with the target fixed;

(c) the present number of non-school going children below the age of 6 years and those between 6 to 14 years respectively, State-wise;

(d) the percentage of such children likely to be covered by the programme this year;

(e) whether the Government have made any time-bound programme in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The National Policy on Education 1986 had envisaged that all children of about 11 years of age will receive primary education by 1990 and free and compulsory education will be provided to all children upto 14 years of age by 1995. The Central Advisory Board on Education Committee on Policy headed by Shri Janardhan Reddy, after reviewing the position, has advised that (a) targets for universalisation of elementary education need to be revised; and (b) every effort should be made to ensure that the constitutional obligation of providing free and compulsory education upto 14 years is achieved by the end of this century. It is proposed to place the report of the Committee before CABE for consideration.

(b) and (c). The gross enrolment ratios (includes under-age and over-age children) in classes I-V and VI-VIII in the last three years were as follows:–

	1988-89	*1989-90*	*1990-91*
Classes I-V (6-11 years)	99.56	99.96	101.03
Classes VI-VIII (11-14 years)	56.95	59.15	60.11

It is estimated that in 1991 about 3.58 crores children in the age group 6-14 were not enrolled.

(d) The target for 1991-92 is 84.65 lakhs.

(e) to (g). The focus of the plans and programme is on providing universalisation of access, participation and acnievement with special emphasis on girls and SC/ST sections. The following measures are being taken:

(i) Provision of primary schools within 1 km. distance of all habitations with a population of 300 and increase in the number of upper primary schools till their ratio to primary schools reaches 1:2;

(ii) Improvement of physical facilities in primary schools under the centrally sponsored scheme of Operation Blackboard;

(iii) Establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training for improving teacher effectiveness;

(iv) Provision of part-time non-formal education to school drop-outs, girls who cannot attend day schools, working children and children in school-less habitations;

(v) Laying greater emphasis on retention and learning achievements;

(vi) Strengthening the pre-schools components of the early childhood education programmes.

University Books in Indian Languages

*583. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARAYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether a Committee for reviewing the scheme of production of University level books in India languages was appointed by the Government in 1987;

(b) whether the Committee has since submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is attached.

(d) The scheme is proposed to be continued in VIIIth Five Year Plan.

STATEMENT

The main recommendation made by the Committee set up by the Government to review the Scheme of University Level Books in Indian Languages are as follows, in brief:-

I. Job opportunities to students pursuing their studies in India languages should be ensured;

II. The Scheme should be continued and the Central Government should consider providing further assistance of Rs. 3 crores to each State till the end of VIII Plan Period.

III. Hindi Granth Akademies and State Textbook Boards should concentrate their resources and energy